

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A paper pickup mechanism mounted in a feed tray, comprising:

a pickup shaft;

a gear set, including:

a transmission gear provided at one end of the gear set, a center of the transmission gear being pivotally connected to the pickup shaft;

a driving gear, transmitting power from a power source;

a first driven gear that is engaged with the driving gear;

a second driven gear that is engaged with the first driven gear and engaged with the transmission gear;

a first connecting rod that connects the driving gear to the first driven gear and to the second driven gear; and

a second connecting rod that connects the transmission gear to the second driven gear;

a pickup roller, mounted in the feed tray and being pivotally connected to the pickup shaft;

a set of interconnected swing arms, one of the swing arms being connected to the pickup roller, and another of the swing arms being connected to a suspended arm in the feed tray;

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a twist restricting gear, disposed on a side of the feed tray, and engaging with the transmission gear; and

means for allowing the twist restricting gear to rotate only when a twist force provided by the gear set applied to the twist restricting gear is greater than a predetermined force;

wherein the transmission gear is mounted outside the feed tray, and the feed tray has a sidewall slot through which the pickup shaft penetrates.

22 (Previously Presented): The paper pickup mechanism of claim 21, wherein the means for allowing comprises a twist limiter mounted adjacent the transmission gear for providing the predetermined force.

23 (Previously Presented): The paper pickup mechanism of claim 22, wherein the twist limiter is a twist spring.

24 (Canceled).

25 (Currently Amended): The paper pickup mechanism of claim 24 21, wherein the sidewall slot has a profile of an inclined arcuate curve whose inner radius at its top edge is greater than at other portions of the inclined arcuate curve.

26 (Previously Presented): The paper pickup mechanism of claim 22, wherein the twist limiter and the twist restricting gear are mounted on an outer side of the feed tray.

27 (Previously Presented): The paper pickup mechanism of claim 21, wherein the first connecting rod has an approximately L shape.

28 (Previously Presented): The paper pickup mechanism of claim 21, wherein the set of swing arms includes a first arm and a second arm which are interconnected to each other, one end of the first arm being connected to the suspended arm, and one end of the second arm being connected to the pickup roller.

29 (Currently Amended): The paper pickup mechanism of claim 21, wherein the feed tray is a vertical ~~type~~ feed tray.